



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letters dated March 20, 2019 and February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

Last year, the EPA issued the first-ever *PFAS Action Plan*—a historic step in our nation's efforts to address PFAS in the environment. The *Action Plan* represented a number of important firsts for the Agency. It was the first time the EPA has used all of our program offices to address an emerging chemical of concern. It was also the first time the Agency had put together a multi-media, multi-program national research, management, and risk communication plan to respond to a challenge like PFAS. By prioritizing our work under the *Action Plan*, the EPA is delivering on President Trump's commitment to protect the health and well-being of communities across the country that are dealing with PFAS issues.

Over the past year, the EPA has built on the momentum the launch of the *Action Plan* put in motion, and our efforts have been nothing short of unprecedented. The Agency has made progress in all of our program areas—from groundwater cleanup guidance, to new test methods that are helping to move our research efforts forward, to updates to our Toxics Release Inventory, to progress on updating our drinking water standards. These actions reflect the execution of the comprehensive and coordinated approach we outlined in the *Action Plan*. Specifically, we want to detail the progress we have made in the following areas:

- Drinking Water: The EPA is following through on its commitment to evaluate and address PFAS in drinking water. The Agency's work over the past year included efforts to expand drinking water test methods, to work under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to propose to regulate PFOA and PFOS, to produce new toxicity assessments, and to continue monitoring for PFAS.
- Environmental Cleanup: Over the past year, the EPA has made considerable progress under the *Action Plan* as it relates to cleanups. In December 2019, the EPA issued the Interim Recommendations for Addressing Groundwater Contaminated with PFOA and

PFOS under federal cleanup programs, a priority action under the *Action Plan*. The EPA also continues moving forward with the regulatory process for proposing to designate PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under CERCLA, while also developing analytical methods for environmental media and conducting treatment and disposal research.

- Chemical Review and Disclosure: The EPA has taken significant actions under the Toxics Release Inventory and the Toxic Substances Control Act program. In the past year, the Agency has taken steps to update the Toxics Release Inventory program to include PFAS and to finalize a Significant New Use Rule for PFAS chemicals.
- Research: The EPA's goal under the *Action Plan* has been to develop and apply scientific information and tools to enable federal, state, local, and tribal governments to work together to make informed decisions to protect public health and the environment. In the past year, the EPA has taken steps to prioritize PFAS research on impacts to agriculture and rural economies, to develop additional analytical methods, and to conduct toxicity and effects research and development.
- Technical Assistance and Support: Over the past year, the EPA provided technical support to multiple states on PFAS contamination and treatment. The EPA is currently responding to requests for assistance from more than a dozen state and territorial governments by screening for PFAS at high priority sites and training local health agencies to test for PFAS on their own. The EPA is also providing cleanup assistance to more than 30 states and the District of Columbia to address PFAS at contaminated groundwater and soil sites.
- Funding: As a leader in the nation's efforts to address PFAS in the environment, the EPA recognizes that providing funding to external organizations is a critical component to successfully addressing these chemicals. Over the past year, the EPA has funded efforts to improve understanding of human and ecological exposure to PFAS, to assess and manage environmental risks posed by PFAS wastes, to conduct research on PFAS in agriculture, and to address PFAS under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.
- Risk Communications and Engagement: Risk communication and engagement are critical for the EPA to effectively support communities across the United States that are addressing PFAS. As outlined in the *Action Plan*, the EPA is actively working to enhance the way in which the Agency communicates about potential human health risks that may be associated with PFAS.

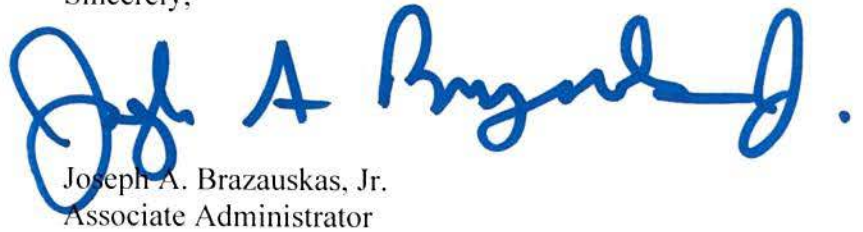
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The EPA is committed to continuing to aggressively implement the *Action Plan*—the most comprehensive cross-Agency plan ever to address an emerging chemical of concern. The EPA's *Action Plan* and the progress that has been made over the past year under the *Action Plan* demonstrates the Agency's leadership role at the national level to address this emerging environmental concern. This includes ensuring that instances where PFAS pose risk to public health or the environment are identified and quickly addressed. Over the next year, the EPA will make further progress on addressing PFAS under a number of key environmental laws, while also working to expand on its inhouse and extramural research efforts, enhance the Agency's

engagement with the rest of the federal government, and focus its efforts on providing more information and data to the public.

If you have further questions, you may contact me or your staff may contact Travis Voyles in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at Voyles.Travis@epa.gov or (202) 564-6399.

Sincerely,

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Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letters dated March 20, 2019 and February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

Last year, the EPA issued the first-ever *PFAS Action Plan*—a historic step in our nation's efforts to address PFAS in the environment. The *Action Plan* represented a number of important firsts for the Agency. It was the first time the EPA has used all of our program offices to address an emerging chemical of concern. It was also the first time the Agency had put together a multi-media, multi-program national research, management, and risk communication plan to respond to a challenge like PFAS. By prioritizing our work under the *Action Plan*, the EPA is delivering on President Trump's commitment to protect the health and well-being of communities across the country that are dealing with PFAS issues.

Over the past year, the EPA has built on the momentum the launch of the *Action Plan* put in motion, and our efforts have been nothing short of unprecedented. The Agency has made progress in all of our program areas—from groundwater cleanup guidance, to new test methods that are helping to move our research efforts forward, to updates to our Toxics Release Inventory, to progress on updating our drinking water standards. These actions reflect the execution of the comprehensive and coordinated approach we outlined in the *Action Plan*. Specifically, we want to detail the progress we have made in the following areas:

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Sincerely,



Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Michael F. Bennet
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bennet:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letter dated February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

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Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letter dated February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

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Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Cory A. Booker
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Booker:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letter dated February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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- Risk Communications and Engagement: Risk communication and engagement are critical for the EPA to effectively support communities across the United States that are addressing PFAS. As outlined in the *Action Plan*, the EPA is actively working to enhance the way in which the Agency communicates about potential human health risks that may be associated with PFAS.

On February 26, the EPA released the *EPA PFAS Action Plan: Program Update*, which describes the Agency's accomplishments since release of the *Action Plan* in greater detail. The *Program Update* is publicly available on the EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-action-plan-program-update-february-2020>.

The EPA is committed to continuing to aggressively implement the *Action Plan*—the most comprehensive cross-Agency plan ever to address an emerging chemical of concern. The EPA's *Action Plan* and the progress that has been made over the past year under the *Action Plan* demonstrates the Agency's leadership role at the national level to address this emerging environmental concern. This includes ensuring that instances where PFAS pose risk to public health or the environment are identified and quickly addressed. Over the next year, the EPA will make further progress on addressing PFAS under a number of key environmental laws, while also working to expand on its inhouse and extramural research efforts, enhance the Agency's

engagement with the rest of the federal government, and focus its efforts on providing more information and data to the public.

If you have further questions, you may contact me or your staff may contact Travis Voyles in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at Voyles.Travis@epa.gov or (202) 564-6399.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letters dated March 20, 2019 and February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

Last year, the EPA issued the first-ever *PFAS Action Plan*—a historic step in our nation's efforts to address PFAS in the environment. The *Action Plan* represented a number of important firsts for the Agency. It was the first time the EPA has used all of our program offices to address an emerging chemical of concern. It was also the first time the Agency had put together a multi-media, multi-program national research, management, and risk communication plan to respond to a challenge like PFAS. By prioritizing our work under the *Action Plan*, the EPA is delivering on President Trump's commitment to protect the health and well-being of communities across the country that are dealing with PFAS issues.

Over the past year, the EPA has built on the momentum the launch of the *Action Plan* put in motion, and our efforts have been nothing short of unprecedented. The Agency has made progress in all of our program areas—from groundwater cleanup guidance, to new test methods that are helping to move our research efforts forward, to updates to our Toxics Release Inventory, to progress on updating our drinking water standards. These actions reflect the execution of the comprehensive and coordinated approach we outlined in the *Action Plan*. Specifically, we want to detail the progress we have made in the following areas:

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- Environmental Cleanup: Over the past year, the EPA has made considerable progress under the *Action Plan* as it relates to cleanups. In December 2019, the EPA issued the Interim Recommendations for Addressing Groundwater Contaminated with PFOA and

PFOS under federal cleanup programs, a priority action under the *Action Plan*. The EPA also continues moving forward with the regulatory process for proposing to designate PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under CERCLA, while also developing analytical methods for environmental media and conducting treatment and disposal research.

- Chemical Review and Disclosure: The EPA has taken significant actions under the Toxics Release Inventory and the Toxic Substances Control Act program. In the past year, the Agency has taken steps to update the Toxics Release Inventory program to include PFAS and to finalize a Significant New Use Rule for PFAS chemicals.
- Research: The EPA's goal under the *Action Plan* has been to develop and apply scientific information and tools to enable federal, state, local, and tribal governments to work together to make informed decisions to protect public health and the environment. In the past year, the EPA has taken steps to prioritize PFAS research on impacts to agriculture and rural economies, to develop additional analytical methods, and to conduct toxicity and effects research and development.
- Technical Assistance and Support: Over the past year, the EPA provided technical support to multiple states on PFAS contamination and treatment. The EPA is currently responding to requests for assistance from more than a dozen state and territorial governments by screening for PFAS at high priority sites and training local health agencies to test for PFAS on their own. The EPA is also providing cleanup assistance to more than 30 states and the District of Columbia to address PFAS at contaminated groundwater and soil sites.
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- Risk Communications and Engagement: Risk communication and engagement are critical for the EPA to effectively support communities across the United States that are addressing PFAS. As outlined in the *Action Plan*, the EPA is actively working to enhance the way in which the Agency communicates about potential human health risks that may be associated with PFAS.

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engagement with the rest of the federal government, and focus its efforts on providing more information and data to the public.

If you have further questions, you may contact me or your staff may contact Travis Voyles in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at Voyles.Travis@epa.gov or (202) 564-6399.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letter dated February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

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If you have further questions, you may contact me or your staff may contact Travis Voyles in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at Voyles.Travis@epa.gov or (202) 564-6399.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letters dated March 20, 2019 and February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

Last year, the EPA issued the first-ever *PFAS Action Plan*—a historic step in our nation's efforts to address PFAS in the environment. The *Action Plan* represented a number of important firsts for the Agency. It was the first time the EPA has used all of our program offices to address an emerging chemical of concern. It was also the first time the Agency had put together a multi-media, multi-program national research, management, and risk communication plan to respond to a challenge like PFAS. By prioritizing our work under the *Action Plan*, the EPA is delivering on President Trump's commitment to protect the health and well-being of communities across the country that are dealing with PFAS issues.

Over the past year, the EPA has built on the momentum the launch of the *Action Plan* put in motion, and our efforts have been nothing short of unprecedented. The Agency has made progress in all of our program areas—from groundwater cleanup guidance, to new test methods that are helping to move our research efforts forward, to updates to our Toxics Release Inventory, to progress on updating our drinking water standards. These actions reflect the execution of the comprehensive and coordinated approach we outlined in the *Action Plan*. Specifically, we want to detail the progress we have made in the following areas:

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If you have further questions, you may contact me or your staff may contact Travis Voyles in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at Voyles.Travis@epa.gov or (202) 564-6399.

Sincerely,

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Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Christopher A. Coons
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coons:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letter dated February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

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Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Duckworth:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letter dated February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

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Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Richard Durbin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letter dated February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

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engagement with the rest of the federal government, and focus its efforts on providing more information and data to the public.

If you have further questions, you may contact me or your staff may contact Travis Voyles in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at Voyles.Travis@epa.gov or (202) 564-6399.

Sincerely,



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Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letter dated February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

Last year, the EPA issued the first-ever *PFAS Action Plan*—a historic step in our nation's efforts to address PFAS in the environment. The *Action Plan* represented a number of important firsts for the Agency. It was the first time the EPA has used all of our program offices to address an emerging chemical of concern. It was also the first time the Agency had put together a multi-media, multi-program national research, management, and risk communication plan to respond to a challenge like PFAS. By prioritizing our work under the *Action Plan*, the EPA is delivering on President Trump's commitment to protect the health and well-being of communities across the country that are dealing with PFAS issues.

Over the past year, the EPA has built on the momentum the launch of the *Action Plan* put in motion, and our efforts have been nothing short of unprecedented. The Agency has made progress in all of our program areas—from groundwater cleanup guidance, to new test methods that are helping to move our research efforts forward, to updates to our Toxics Release Inventory, to progress on updating our drinking water standards. These actions reflect the execution of the comprehensive and coordinated approach we outlined in the *Action Plan*. Specifically, we want to detail the progress we have made in the following areas:

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Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letters dated March 20, 2019 and February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

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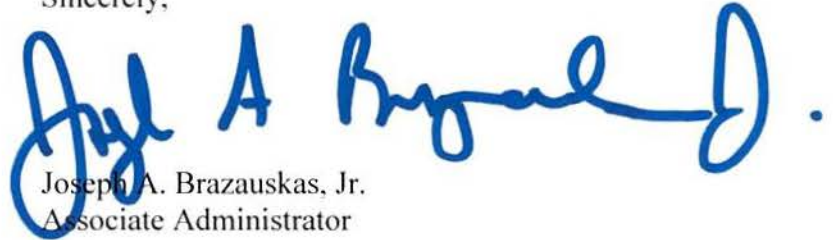
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Sincerely,

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Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Harris:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letter dated February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

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Sincerely,



Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hassan:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letters dated March 20, 2019 and February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

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Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator King:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letter dated February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

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If you have further questions, you may contact me or your staff may contact Travis Voyles in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at Voyles.Travis@epa.gov or (202) 564-6399.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr." in a cursive style.

Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letter dated February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

Last year, the EPA issued the first-ever *PFAS Action Plan*—a historic step in our nation's efforts to address PFAS in the environment. The *Action Plan* represented a number of important firsts for the Agency. It was the first time the EPA has used all of our program offices to address an emerging chemical of concern. It was also the first time the Agency had put together a multi-media, multi-program national research, management, and risk communication plan to respond to a challenge like PFAS. By prioritizing our work under the *Action Plan*, the EPA is delivering on President Trump's commitment to protect the health and well-being of communities across the country that are dealing with PFAS issues.

Over the past year, the EPA has built on the momentum the launch of the *Action Plan* put in motion, and our efforts have been nothing short of unprecedented. The Agency has made progress in all of our program areas—from groundwater cleanup guidance, to new test methods that are helping to move our research efforts forward, to updates to our Toxics Release Inventory, to progress on updating our drinking water standards. These actions reflect the execution of the comprehensive and coordinated approach we outlined in the *Action Plan*. Specifically, we want to detail the progress we have made in the following areas:

- Drinking Water: The EPA is following through on its commitment to evaluate and address PFAS in drinking water. The Agency's work over the past year included efforts to expand drinking water test methods, to work under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to propose to regulate PFOA and PFOS, to produce new toxicity assessments, and to continue monitoring for PFAS.
- Environmental Cleanup: Over the past year, the EPA has made considerable progress under the *Action Plan* as it relates to cleanups. In December 2019, the EPA issued the Interim Recommendations for Addressing Groundwater Contaminated with PFOA and

PFOS under federal cleanup programs, a priority action under the *Action Plan*. The EPA also continues moving forward with the regulatory process for proposing to designate PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under CERCLA, while also developing analytical methods for environmental media and conducting treatment and disposal research.

- Chemical Review and Disclosure: The EPA has taken significant actions under the Toxics Release Inventory and the Toxic Substances Control Act program. In the past year, the Agency has taken steps to update the Toxics Release Inventory program to include PFAS and to finalize a Significant New Use Rule for PFAS chemicals.
- Research: The EPA's goal under the *Action Plan* has been to develop and apply scientific information and tools to enable federal, state, local, and tribal governments to work together to make informed decisions to protect public health and the environment. In the past year, the EPA has taken steps to prioritize PFAS research on impacts to agriculture and rural economies, to develop additional analytical methods, and to conduct toxicity and effects research and development.
- Technical Assistance and Support: Over the past year, the EPA provided technical support to multiple states on PFAS contamination and treatment. The EPA is currently responding to requests for assistance from more than a dozen state and territorial governments by screening for PFAS at high priority sites and training local health agencies to test for PFAS on their own. The EPA is also providing cleanup assistance to more than 30 states and the District of Columbia to address PFAS at contaminated groundwater and soil sites.
- Funding: As a leader in the nation's efforts to address PFAS in the environment, the EPA recognizes that providing funding to external organizations is a critical component to successfully addressing these chemicals. Over the past year, the EPA has funded efforts to improve understanding of human and ecological exposure to PFAS, to assess and manage environmental risks posed by PFAS wastes, to conduct research on PFAS in agriculture, and to address PFAS under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.
- Risk Communications and Engagement: Risk communication and engagement are critical for the EPA to effectively support communities across the United States that are addressing PFAS. As outlined in the *Action Plan*, the EPA is actively working to enhance the way in which the Agency communicates about potential human health risks that may be associated with PFAS.


On February 26, the EPA released the *EPA PFAS Action Plan: Program Update*, which describes the Agency's accomplishments since release of the *Action Plan* in greater detail. The *Program Update* is publicly available on the EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-action-plan-program-update-february-2020>.

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Sincerely,



Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Joe Manchin, III
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Manchin:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letters dated March 20, 2019 and February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

Last year, the EPA issued the first-ever *PFAS Action Plan*—a historic step in our nation's efforts to address PFAS in the environment. The *Action Plan* represented a number of important firsts for the Agency. It was the first time the EPA has used all of our program offices to address an emerging chemical of concern. It was also the first time the Agency had put together a multi-media, multi-program national research, management, and risk communication plan to respond to a challenge like PFAS. By prioritizing our work under the *Action Plan*, the EPA is delivering on President Trump's commitment to protect the health and well-being of communities across the country that are dealing with PFAS issues.

Over the past year, the EPA has built on the momentum the launch of the *Action Plan* put in motion, and our efforts have been nothing short of unprecedented. The Agency has made progress in all of our program areas—from groundwater cleanup guidance, to new test methods that are helping to move our research efforts forward, to updates to our Toxics Release Inventory, to progress on updating our drinking water standards. These actions reflect the execution of the comprehensive and coordinated approach we outlined in the *Action Plan*. Specifically, we want to detail the progress we have made in the following areas:

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- Chemical Review and Disclosure: The EPA has taken significant actions under the Toxics Release Inventory and the Toxic Substances Control Act program. In the past year, the Agency has taken steps to update the Toxics Release Inventory program to include PFAS and to finalize a Significant New Use Rule for PFAS chemicals.
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- Funding: As a leader in the nation's efforts to address PFAS in the environment, the EPA recognizes that providing funding to external organizations is a critical component to successfully addressing these chemicals. Over the past year, the EPA has funded efforts to improve understanding of human and ecological exposure to PFAS, to assess and manage environmental risks posed by PFAS wastes, to conduct research on PFAS in agriculture, and to address PFAS under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.
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Sincerely,

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Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letter dated February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

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Sincerely,

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Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letter dated February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

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Sincerely,



Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letters dated March 6, 2019, March 20, 2019, and February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

Last year, the EPA issued the first-ever *PFAS Action Plan*—a historic step in our nation's efforts to address PFAS in the environment. The *Action Plan* represented a number of important firsts for the Agency. It was the first time the EPA has used all of our program offices to address an emerging chemical of concern. It was also the first time the Agency had put together a multi-media, multi-program national research, management, and risk communication plan to respond to a challenge like PFAS. By prioritizing our work under the *Action Plan*, the EPA is delivering on President Trump's commitment to protect the health and well-being of communities across the country that are dealing with PFAS issues.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Reed:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letters dated March 6, 2019, March 20, 2019, and February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

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- Technical Assistance and Support: Over the past year, the EPA provided technical support to multiple states on PFAS contamination and treatment. The EPA is currently responding to requests for assistance from more than a dozen state and territorial governments by screening for PFAS at high priority sites and training local health agencies to test for PFAS on their own. The EPA is also providing cleanup assistance to more than 30 states and the District of Columbia to address PFAS at contaminated groundwater and soil sites.
- Funding: As a leader in the nation's efforts to address PFAS in the environment, the EPA recognizes that providing funding to external organizations is a critical component to successfully addressing these chemicals. Over the past year, the EPA has funded efforts to improve understanding of human and ecological exposure to PFAS, to assess and manage environmental risks posed by PFAS wastes, to conduct research on PFAS in agriculture, and to address PFAS under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.
- Risk Communications and Engagement: Risk communication and engagement are critical for the EPA to effectively support communities across the United States that are addressing PFAS. As outlined in the *Action Plan*, the EPA is actively working to enhance the way in which the Agency communicates about potential human health risks that may be associated with PFAS.

On February 26, the EPA released the *EPA PFAS Action Plan: Program Update*, which describes the Agency's accomplishments since release of the *Action Plan* in greater detail. The *Program Update* is publicly available on the EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-action-plan-program-update-february-2020>.

The EPA is committed to continuing to aggressively implement the *Action Plan*—the most comprehensive cross-Agency plan ever to address an emerging chemical of concern. The EPA's *Action Plan* and the progress that has been made over the past year under the *Action Plan* demonstrates the Agency's leadership role at the national level to address this emerging environmental concern. This includes ensuring that instances where PFAS pose risk to public

health or the environment are identified and quickly addressed. Over the next year, the EPA will make further progress on addressing PFAS under a number of key environmental laws, while also working to expand on its inhouse and extramural research efforts, enhance the Agency's engagement with the rest of the federal government, and focus its efforts on providing more information and data to the public.

If you have further questions, you may contact me or your staff may contact Travis Voyles in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at Voyles.Travis@epa.gov or (202) 564-6399.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable James M. Inhofe, Chairman



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sanders:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letters dated March 20, 2019 and February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

Last year, the EPA issued the first-ever *PFAS Action Plan*—a historic step in our nation's efforts to address PFAS in the environment. The *Action Plan* represented a number of important firsts for the Agency. It was the first time the EPA has used all of our program offices to address an emerging chemical of concern. It was also the first time the Agency had put together a multi-media, multi-program national research, management, and risk communication plan to respond to a challenge like PFAS. By prioritizing our work under the *Action Plan*, the EPA is delivering on President Trump's commitment to protect the health and well-being of communities across the country that are dealing with PFAS issues.

Over the past year, the EPA has built on the momentum the launch of the *Action Plan* put in motion, and our efforts have been nothing short of unprecedented. The Agency has made progress in all of our program areas—from groundwater cleanup guidance, to new test methods that are helping to move our research efforts forward, to updates to our Toxics Release Inventory, to progress on updating our drinking water standards. These actions reflect the execution of the comprehensive and coordinated approach we outlined in the *Action Plan*. Specifically, we want to detail the progress we have made in the following areas:

- Drinking Water: The EPA is following through on its commitment to evaluate and address PFAS in drinking water. The Agency's work over the past year included efforts to expand drinking water test methods, to work under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to propose to regulate PFOA and PFOS, to produce new toxicity assessments, and to continue monitoring for PFAS.
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- Funding: As a leader in the nation's efforts to address PFAS in the environment, the EPA recognizes that providing funding to external organizations is a critical component to successfully addressing these chemicals. Over the past year, the EPA has funded efforts to improve understanding of human and ecological exposure to PFAS, to assess and manage environmental risks posed by PFAS wastes, to conduct research on PFAS in agriculture, and to address PFAS under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.
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engagement with the rest of the federal government, and focus its efforts on providing more information and data to the public.

If you have further questions, you may contact me or your staff may contact Travis Voyles in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at Voyles.Travis@epa.gov or (202) 564-6399.

Sincerely,

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Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

MAR 02 2020

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letter dated February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr." The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joseph" written in a large, stylized loop.

Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Tina Smith
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Smith:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letter dated February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

Last year, the EPA issued the first-ever *PFAS Action Plan*—a historic step in our nation's efforts to address PFAS in the environment. The *Action Plan* represented a number of important firsts for the Agency. It was the first time the EPA has used all of our program offices to address an emerging chemical of concern. It was also the first time the Agency had put together a multi-media, multi-program national research, management, and risk communication plan to respond to a challenge like PFAS. By prioritizing our work under the *Action Plan*, the EPA is delivering on President Trump's commitment to protect the health and well-being of communities across the country that are dealing with PFAS issues.

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Sincerely,

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Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Stabenow:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letters dated March 20, 2019 and February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

Last year, the EPA issued the first-ever *PFAS Action Plan*—a historic step in our nation's efforts to address PFAS in the environment. The *Action Plan* represented a number of important firsts for the Agency. It was the first time the EPA has used all of our program offices to address an emerging chemical of concern. It was also the first time the Agency had put together a multi-media, multi-program national research, management, and risk communication plan to respond to a challenge like PFAS. By prioritizing our work under the *Action Plan*, the EPA is delivering on President Trump's commitment to protect the health and well-being of communities across the country that are dealing with PFAS issues.

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Sincerely,

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Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letters dated March 20, 2019 and February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

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Sincerely,



Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 02 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Whitehouse:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letter dated February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

Last year, the EPA issued the first-ever *PFAS Action Plan*—a historic step in our nation's efforts to address PFAS in the environment. The *Action Plan* represented a number of important firsts for the Agency. It was the first time the EPA has used all of our program offices to address an emerging chemical of concern. It was also the first time the Agency had put together a multi-media, multi-program national research, management, and risk communication plan to respond to a challenge like PFAS. By prioritizing our work under the *Action Plan*, the EPA is delivering on President Trump's commitment to protect the health and well-being of communities across the country that are dealing with PFAS issues.

Over the past year, the EPA has built on the momentum the launch of the *Action Plan* put in motion, and our efforts have been nothing short of unprecedented. The Agency has made progress in all of our program areas—from groundwater cleanup guidance, to new test methods that are helping to move our research efforts forward, to updates to our Toxics Release Inventory, to progress on updating our drinking water standards. These actions reflect the execution of the comprehensive and coordinated approach we outlined in the *Action Plan*. Specifically, we want to detail the progress we have made in the following areas:

- Drinking Water: The EPA is following through on its commitment to evaluate and address PFAS in drinking water. The Agency's work over the past year included efforts to expand drinking water test methods, to work under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to propose to regulate PFOA and PFOS, to produce new toxicity assessments, and to continue monitoring for PFAS.
- Environmental Cleanup: Over the past year, the EPA has made considerable progress under the *Action Plan* as it relates to cleanups. In December 2019, the EPA issued the Interim Recommendations for Addressing Groundwater Contaminated with PFOA and

PFOS under federal cleanup programs, a priority action under the *Action Plan*. The EPA also continues moving forward with the regulatory process for proposing to designate PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under CERCLA, while also developing analytical methods for environmental media and conducting treatment and disposal research.

- Chemical Review and Disclosure: The EPA has taken significant actions under the Toxics Release Inventory and the Toxic Substances Control Act program. In the past year, the Agency has taken steps to update the Toxics Release Inventory program to include PFAS and to finalize a Significant New Use Rule for PFAS chemicals.
- Research: The EPA's goal under the *Action Plan* has been to develop and apply scientific information and tools to enable federal, state, local, and tribal governments to work together to make informed decisions to protect public health and the environment. In the past year, the EPA has taken steps to prioritize PFAS research on impacts to agriculture and rural economies, to develop additional analytical methods, and to conduct toxicity and effects research and development.
- Technical Assistance and Support: Over the past year, the EPA provided technical support to multiple states on PFAS contamination and treatment. The EPA is currently responding to requests for assistance from more than a dozen state and territorial governments by screening for PFAS at high priority sites and training local health agencies to test for PFAS on their own. The EPA is also providing cleanup assistance to more than 30 states and the District of Columbia to address PFAS at contaminated groundwater and soil sites.
- Funding: As a leader in the nation's efforts to address PFAS in the environment, the EPA recognizes that providing funding to external organizations is a critical component to successfully addressing these chemicals. Over the past year, the EPA has funded efforts to improve understanding of human and ecological exposure to PFAS, to assess and manage environmental risks posed by PFAS wastes, to conduct research on PFAS in agriculture, and to address PFAS under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.
- Risk Communications and Engagement: Risk communication and engagement are critical for the EPA to effectively support communities across the United States that are addressing PFAS. As outlined in the *Action Plan*, the EPA is actively working to enhance the way in which the Agency communicates about potential human health risks that may be associated with PFAS.

On February 26, the EPA released the *EPA PFAS Action Plan: Program Update*, which describes the Agency's accomplishments since release of the *Action Plan* in greater detail. The *Program Update* is publicly available on the EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-action-plan-program-update-february-2020>.

The EPA is committed to continuing to aggressively implement the *Action Plan*—the most comprehensive cross-Agency plan ever to address an emerging chemical of concern. The EPA's *Action Plan* and the progress that has been made over the past year under the *Action Plan* demonstrates the Agency's leadership role at the national level to address this emerging environmental concern. This includes ensuring that instances where PFAS pose risk to public health or the environment are identified and quickly addressed. Over the next year, the EPA will make further progress on addressing PFAS under a number of key environmental laws, while also working to expand on its inhouse and extramural research efforts, enhance the Agency's

engagement with the rest of the federal government, and focus its efforts on providing more information and data to the public.

If you have further questions, you may contact me or your staff may contact Travis Voyles in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at Voyles.Travis@epa.gov or (202) 564-6399.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr." in a cursive style.

Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 28 2020

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL
AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Carper:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I am writing in response to your letters dated March 6, 2019 and February 14, 2020, in which you sought information related to the Agency's efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-related issues are a priority for the EPA and we are working aggressively and cooperatively with our federal and state partners to take significant action in order to protect human health and the environment.

Last year, the EPA issued the first-ever *PFAS Action Plan*—a historic step in our nation's efforts to address PFAS in the environment. The *Action Plan* represented a number of important firsts for the Agency. It was the first time the EPA has used all of our program offices to address an emerging chemical of concern. It was also the first time the Agency had put together a multi-media, multi-program national research, management, and risk communication plan to respond to a challenge like PFAS. By prioritizing our work under the *Action Plan*, the EPA is delivering on President Trump's commitment to protect the health and well-being of communities across the country that are dealing with PFAS issues.

Over the past year, the EPA has built on the momentum the launch of the *Action Plan* put in motion, and our efforts have been nothing short of unprecedented. The Agency has made progress in all of our program areas—from groundwater cleanup guidance, to new test methods that are helping to move our research efforts forward, to updates to our Toxics Release Inventory, to progress on updating our drinking water standards. These actions reflect the execution of the comprehensive and coordinated approach we outlined in the *Action Plan*.

Contrary to your recent criticism on February 10, 2020, where you gave the EPA a "D-" grade for implementation of our Action Plan and characterized the Agency as "failing to uphold the promises," the EPA has in fact made significant progress in meeting the goals we set for ourselves in the Action Plan. Your statement is a discredit to the hard work of the dedicated career EPA employees who are working on PFAS. The EPA has made aggressive commitments

and we have made significant progress in meeting our goals. Specifically, we want to detail the progress we have made in the following areas:

- Drinking Water: The EPA is following through on its commitment to evaluate and address PFAS in drinking water. The Agency's work over the past year included efforts to expand drinking water test methods, to work under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to propose to regulate PFOA and PFOS, to produce new toxicity assessments, and to continue monitoring for PFAS.
- Environmental Cleanup: Over the past year, the EPA has made considerable progress under the *Action Plan* as it relates to cleanups. In December 2019, the EPA issued the Interim Recommendations for Addressing Groundwater Contaminated with PFOA and PFOS under federal cleanup programs, a priority action under the *Action Plan*. The EPA also continues moving forward with the regulatory process for proposing to designate PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under CERCLA, while also developing analytical methods for environmental media and conducting treatment and disposal research.
- Chemical Review and Disclosure: The EPA has taken significant actions under the Toxics Release Inventory and the Toxic Substances Control Act program. In the past year, the Agency has taken steps to update the Toxics Release Inventory program to include PFAS and to finalize a Significant New Use Rule for PFAS chemicals.
- Research: The EPA's goal under the *Action Plan* has been to develop and apply scientific information and tools to enable federal, state, local, and tribal governments to work together to make informed decisions to protect public health and the environment. In the past year, the EPA has taken steps to prioritize PFAS research on impacts to agriculture and rural economies, to develop additional analytical methods, and to conduct toxicity and effects research and development.
- Technical Assistance and Support: Over the past year, the EPA provided technical support to multiple states on PFAS contamination and treatment. The EPA is currently responding to requests for assistance from more than a dozen state and territorial governments by screening for PFAS at high priority sites and training local health agencies to test for PFAS on their own. The EPA is also providing cleanup assistance to more than 30 states and the District of Columbia to address PFAS at contaminated groundwater and soil sites.
- Funding: As a leader in the nation's efforts to address PFAS in the environment, the EPA recognizes that providing funding to external organizations is a critical component to successfully addressing these chemicals. Over the past year, the EPA has funded efforts to improve understanding of human and ecological exposure to PFAS, to assess and manage environmental risks posed by PFAS wastes, to conduct research on PFAS in agriculture, and to address PFAS under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.
- Risk Communications and Engagement: Risk communication and engagement are critical for the EPA to effectively support communities across the United States that are addressing PFAS. As outlined in the *Action Plan*, the EPA is actively working to enhance the way in which the Agency communicates about potential human health risks that may be associated with PFAS.

On February 26, the EPA released the *EPA PFAS Action Plan: Program Update*, which describes the Agency's accomplishments since release of the *Action Plan* in greater detail. The

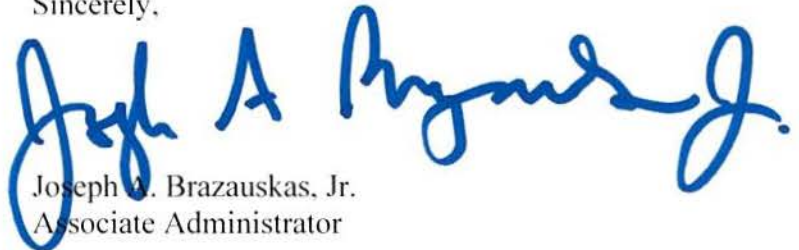
Program Update is publicly available on the EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-action-plan-program-update-february-2020>.

Also enclosed are responses to questions for the record from the March 28, 2019 hearing entitled, "*Examining the federal response to the risks associated with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)*."

The EPA is committed to continuing to aggressively implement the *Action Plan*—the most comprehensive cross-Agency plan ever to address an emerging chemical of concern. The EPA's *Action Plan* and the progress that has been made over the past year under the *Action Plan* demonstrates the Agency's leadership role at the national level to address this emerging environmental concern. This includes ensuring that instances where PFAS pose risk to public health or the environment are identified and quickly addressed. Over the next year, the EPA will make further progress on addressing PFAS under a number of key environmental laws, while also working to expand on its inhouse and extramural research efforts, enhance the Agency's engagement with the rest of the federal government, and focus its efforts on providing more information and data to the public.

The Agency recognizes the importance of the Committee's need to obtain information necessary to perform its legitimate oversight functions and is committed to continuing to work with your staff on how best to accommodate the Committee's interests. If you have further questions, you may contact me or your staff may contact Travis Voyles in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at Voyles.Travis@epa.gov or (202) 564-6399.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joseph A. Brazauskas, Jr.
Associate Administrator

Enclosures